

**CULTURE AND SCIENCE IN THE
HISTORY OF AMERICAN MEDICINE**

History 26: 510: 593

FALL 2004 SYLLABUS

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Class Meetings

*Cullimore Hall 411, NJIT Campus
Mondays 5-7:30 p.m.*

Office & Contact

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Office Hours

Mondays 3-4:30 p.m., Thursdays 1-2 p.m., and by appointment

This reading seminar provides an overview of U.S. medical history in the 19th and 20th centuries, and introduces the student to various approaches that historians and other historically-minded scholars have used to understand the complex relationships between medicine, science and culture. Of particular focus will be the extent to which medicine is or has been scientific; the ways science became vital to the medical and health professions; and the degrees to which medicine's professional culture both mirrors and informs American society and popular culture. Our readings will allow us to link interactions between medicine, science and culture to the changing moral and political economies of health in the U.S. and analyze a variety of issues, including the growing role of technology in medicine, the roles of business and government in managing health, and the historical effects of specific disease problems ranging from tuberculosis and AIDS to diabetes and cancer. Students will also have the opportunity to explore how issues of class, race, gender and sexuality have impacted cultural interactions between medical professionals, scientists, patients, and the public.

Readings

Readings for the semester consist of thirteen books and a selection of articles. A full

bibliography of the readings appears at the end of this syllabus. The books are available at the Rutgers-Newark campus bookstore and through on-line booksellers. The articles will be available through “electronic reserve” at IRIS (the Rutgers Libraries’ Catalog), and should be accessible in early September. Full citations for the articles appear in the bibliography, and several of the journal articles can also be found through JSTOR, EBSCO, and other electronic databases.

Assignments and Grading

Each student will read the weekly assignment and contribute to the class discussion. Class participation is essential to good performance in the course.

The student will complete five short writing assignments in this course (3 short essays and 2 article reviews). Each student will submit no more than one assignment per week. The student should bring at least two copies of their writing assignments to class (one for the professor, and one for their own use). Although it is not a requirement, the student may also circulate additional copies of their written assignments to classmates. *The written assignments must be delivered to the professor by the beginning of class on the day the reading (or topic) is scheduled for discussion, and the student must attend class on these days in order to get full credit for the assignment.*

Short Essays. At three different points in the semester, the student will write a 4-5 page essay that discusses some aspect of a book assigned for the day. On the day of the assigned reading, students who have written an essay may be asked to discuss their findings to the class in a short presentation (5 minutes).

The short essay should offer a compelling thesis that grapples with the argument(s), evidence, and/or methodological approach in the assigned book. The essay may take the form of a book review as long as it satisfies the preceding requirement. However, the student can also limit their essay to some substantial aspect or argument of the assigned book rather than reviewing it as a whole. The short essays are an opportunity to think critically about the reading and demonstrate your own grasp of the material and/or interpretation of the book (in part or whole).

You *must* write an essay on a book assigned between Sept. 27 and Oct. 18, another on a book assigned between Oct. 25 and Nov. 15, and a third essay on a book assigned between Nov. 22 and Dec. 6.

Article reviews. At two different points in the semester, the student will write a 2-3 page review of an assigned journal article or book chapter. The student should be prepared to discuss the article, and (if necessary) lead the class’ discussion of it. Only those articles marked with a star (*) are eligible for review. You are required to write your first article review between Sept. 20 and Oct. 11, and your second article review

between Oct. 25 and Nov 22.

Final Grade Distribution

20% for participation

60% for 3 short essays (20% each)

20% for 2 article reviews (10% each)

Semester Schedule

The following three readings are recommended, but not required. They each provide an overview of trends in the history of medicine and public health field. You may find them useful for orienting yourself and your reading at any point in the semester. All recommended readings will be “on-reserve” at Dana Library with the other article-length readings assigned in the course.

Allan Brandt, “Emerging Themes in the History of Medicine”

James T. Patterson, “Disease in the History of Medicine and Public Health”

Roger Cooter, “‘Framing’ the End of the Social History of Medicine”

Sept 6. Labor Day – No Class

Note: Due to the semester’s late start this year, we will not have our first meeting until Sept. 13. Please read the assignment in advance, and be prepared to discuss it.

Sept 13. Framing Disease: Culture and Science in the History of Medicine

Joan Brumberg, *Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa*. 2nd revised ed.

Charles Rosenberg, “Framing Disease: Illness, Society, and History” [Ch. 15 of *Explaining Epidemics*]

Sept 20. Interpreting Medicine from the 19th Century to Now

John Harley Warner, “The History of Science and the Sciences of Medicine,”

*Nicholas Jewson, “Disappearance of the Sick Man in Medical Cosmology, 1770-1870”

*Charles Rosenberg, “The Therapeutic Revolution: Medicine, Meaning, and Social Change in Nineteenth-Century America” [Ch. 1 of *Explaining Epidemics*]

*Gerald Geison, “Divided We Stand: Physiologists and Clinicians in the American Context”

The following article is highly recommended as an orientation to American medicine and science in the nineteenth-century but not required.

Ronald L. Numbers and John Harley Warner, “The Maturation of American Medical Science”

Sept 27. Medical Knowledge and the Body in 19th-Century American Culture

Michael Sappol. *Traffic of Dead Bodies: Anatomy and Embodied Social Identity in Nineteenth-Century America*

Oct 4. Contagion and Germ Theory in the American Popular Imagination

Nancy Tomes. *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*

*Charles E. Rosenberg, “Florence Nightingale on Contagion: The Hospital as Moral Universe” [Ch. 5 of *Explaining Epidemics*]

*Judith Walzer Leavitt, “‘Typhoid Mary’ Strikes Back: Bacteriological Theory and Practice in Early-20th Century Public Health”

Oct 11. Immigration, Public Health, and the Uses of Medical Science

Amy Fairchild. *Science at the Borders: Immigrant Medical Inspection and the Shaping of the Modern Industrial Workforce*

*Alan M. Kraut, “‘Proper Precautions’: Searching for Illness on Ellis Island”

Oct 18. “Unfit” and On-Screen: Eugenics in American Culture

Tomorrow’s Children [In-Class Movie, 55 minutes]

Martin Pernick. *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of “Defective” Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures Since 1915*

Martin Pernick, “Eugenics and Public Health in American History,”

Oct 25. The Technological Impulse in Disease Management: The Cases of Diabetes and Anemia

Chris Feudtner, *Bittersweet: Diabetes, Insulin, and the Transformation of Illness*

You should choose to read one of the following, very carefully ...

*Keith Wailoo, “The Corporate ‘Conquest’ of Pernicious Anemia: Technology, Blood Researchers, and the Consumer”

*Keith Wailoo, “Detecting ‘Negro Blood’: Black and White Identities and the Reconstruction of Sickle Cell Anemia”

Nov 1. Domestic Companions: How American Medicine Embraced Laboratory Science and Its Inter-Species Cultures

Karen Rader, *Making Mice: Standardizing Animals for American Biomedical Research, 1900-1955*

Stephen Pemberton, “Canine Technologies, Model Patients: The Historical Production of Hemophiliac Dogs in American Biomedicine”

Nov 8. The Cultures of the AIDS Epidemic in the 1980s

And The Band Played On [In-Class Movie, excerpt]

Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and Its Metaphors*

*Allan Brandt, “AIDS and Metaphor: Toward the Social Meaning of Epidemic Disease”

*Charles Rosenberg, “Disease and Social Order in America: Perceptions and Expectations,” [Chapter 12 of *Explaining Epidemics*]

Nov 15. The Science of the AIDS Epidemic in 1980s and 1990s

Steven Epstein. *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge*

*Charles Rosenberg, “What is an Epidemic? AIDS in Historical Perspective” and “Explaining Epidemics” [Chapters 13 & 14 of *Explaining Epidemics*]
Note: These articles are companion pieces and should be read together.

Nov 22. Normalizing Tendencies: Intersexuality and the Moral Economy of Professional Medicine in America

John Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl*

*Alice Domurat Dreger, “Cultural History and Social Activism: Scholarship, Identities, and the Intersex Rights Movement”

Nov 29. Beyond Therapeutics: Medical Enhancement and the American “Pursuit of Happiness”

Carl Elliott, *Better Than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream*

Dec 6. East/West: Clinical Encounters and Cultural Divides in Contemporary America

Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

Dec. 13. Culture in Science, Science in Culture

Course Bibliography

Books

- Joan Brumberg, *Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa*. 2nd rev. ed. (Knopf/Vintage, 2000)
- John Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl* (HarperCollins, 2000)
- Carl Elliott, *Better Than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream* (W. W. Norton, 2003)
- Steven Epstein. *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (University of California Press, 1996)
- Anne Fadiman, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997)
- Amy Fairchild. *Science at the Borders: Immigrant Medical Inspection and the Shaping of the Modern Industrial Workforce* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003)
- Chris Feudtner, *Bittersweet: Diabetes, Insulin, and the Transformation of Illness* (University of North Carolina Press, 2003)
- Martin Pernick. *The Black Stork: Eugenics and the Death of "Defective" Babies in American Medicine and Motion Pictures Since 1915* (Oxford University Press, 1996)
- Karen Rader, *Making Mice: Standardizing Animals for American Biomedical Research, 1900-1955* (Princeton University Press, 2004)
- Charles E. Rosenberg, *Explaining Epidemics and Other Studies in the History of Medicine* (Cambridge University Press, 1992)
- Michael Sappol. *Traffic of Dead Bodies: Anatomy and Embodied Social Identity in Nineteenth-Century America* (Princeton University Press, 2002)
- Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor & AIDS and Its Metaphors* (Picador, 2001). [Several

editions of this work are available. Any will do as long as it includes both essays.]

Nancy Tomes. *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life* (Harvard University Press, 1998)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Allan Brandt, "Emerging Themes in the History of Medicine," *Milbank Quarterly* (1991) 69: 199-214.
- Allan Brandt, "AIDS and Metaphor: Toward the Social Meaning of Epidemic Disease" *Social Research* (1988) 55: 413-432.
- Roger Cooter, "'Framing' the End of the Social History of Medicine," in Frank Huisman and John Harley Warner, eds. *Locating Medical History: The Stories and Their Meanings* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), 309-337.
- Alice Domurat Dreger, "Cultural History and Social Activism: Scholarship, Identities, and the Intersex Rights Movement," in Frank Huisman and John Harley Warner, eds. *Locating Medical History: The Stories and Their Meanings* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), 390-409.
- Gerald Geison, "Divided We Stand: Physiologists and Clinicians in the American Context" in Judith Walzer Leavitt and Ronald Numbers, ed. *Sickness and Health in America: Readings in the History of Medicine and Public Health* 3rd ed., rev. (University of Wisconsin Press, 1997) 115-129. [Reprinted from Morris J. Vogel and Charles Rosenberg, ed. *The Therapeutic Revolution: Essays in the Social History of American Medicine* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1979), 67-90.]
- Nicholas Jewson, "Disappearance of the Sick Man in Medical Cosmology, 1770-1870," *Sociology* (1976) 10: 225-244.
- Alan M. Kraut, "'Proper Precautions': Searching for Illness on Ellis Island" in Alan M. Kraut, *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes and 'Immigrant Menace'* (Basic Books, 1994) 50-77, 294-301.
- Judith Walzer Leavitt, "'Typhoid Mary' Strikes Back: Bacteriological Theory and Practice in Early-20th Century Public Health," *Isis* (1992) 83: 608-629.
- Ronald L. Numbers and John Harley Warner, "The Maturation of American Medical Science" in Judith Walzer Leavitt and Ronald Numbers, ed. *Sickness and Health in America: Readings in the History of Medicine and Public Health* 3rd ed., rev. (University of Wisconsin Press, 1997) 130-142. [Reprinted from Nathan Reingold and Marc Rothenberg, ed. *Scientific Colonialism: A Cross-Cultural Comparison* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1987) 191-214.]
- James T. Patterson, "How Do We Write the History of Disease," in John Harley Warner and Janet A. Tighe, eds. *Major Problems in the History of American Medicine and Public Health* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001) 17-25. [Reprinted from *Health and History* 1 (1998): 8-28.]
- Martin Pernick, "Eugenics and Public Health in American History," *American Journal of Public Health* (1997) 87: 1767-1772.

Stephen Pemberton, "Canine Technologies, Model Patients: The Historical Production of Hemophiliac Dogs in American Biomedicine," in Susan Schrepfer and Philip Scranton, eds., *Industrializing Organisms: Introducing Evolutionary History* (Routledge, 2003), 191-213.

Keith Wailoo, "The Corporate 'Conquest' of Pernicious Anemia: Technology, Blood Researchers, and the Consumer" in Keith Wailoo, *Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 99-133.

Keith Wailoo, "Detecting 'Negro Blood': Black and White Identities and the Reconstruction of Sickle Cell Anemia" in Keith Wailoo, *Drawing Blood: Technology and Disease Identity in Twentieth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 133-161.

John Harley Warner, "The History of Science and the Sciences of Medicine," *Osiris* (1995) 10: 164-193